

JUNE

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

12 1975

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The Canadian Penitentiary Service is like a blindfolded man: failures and accidents await it at every step.

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Second Class Registration

Number 3479

AVATAR: an integral manifestation or embodiment, of a concept, philosophy or tradition or a variant phase of a continuing basic entity. Two-fold possibility and two-fold purpose. This paper is a continuation of a long line of papers here at the Bay and with it we, the staff hope to breathe fresh life into an old, but oft neglected philosophy - future oriented humanism. Yours in the struggle!

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THE VIEW FROM HERE

George
Watson

(The editorial originally intended for this page was found to be unsatisfactory by the administration and has been deleted from this issue. Ed.)

In a recent poll held by the Kingston Whig-Standard on how Kingstonians feel about the subject of capital punishment, 24 people said they were abolitionists while 15 said they were in favor of retaining the death penalty.

The people who voted to do away with the death penalty were, for the most part, either connected with Queen's University, lawyers or members of social agencies.

Those voting in favor of retention were either

policemen, politicians Kingston's own petition maker, Irene Mooney and a prison guard. To say that their opinions were biased is an understatement.

Various reasons were given by the abolitionists for their feelings but the classic one of them all was given by one of those in favor of retaining capital punishment.

Everyone is used to hearing about the "eye for an eye" and other quotations from the bible to justify society taking the life of a person convicted of murder. Lately, the excuse given is for the protection of the police and prison guard but now a new one has been added - for economic reasons!

The person was quoted as saying: "Economically, I think our country has to do it. . . . There are people living in this country drawing \$3,000 in pensions and murderers who've done nothing for the country are taking up \$13,000 & \$14,000 a year. Purely from an economic point of view, its not worth it to keep these deadbeats".

In the same vein, and purely for economic reasons, we may as well exterminate our old age pensioners because they are "deadbeats" drawing their pensions and are not contributing to society. Then we could kill every newborn child because they are "deadbeats" and are a drain on the taxpayer via the baby bonus route. Then we could eliminate the mentally retarded and all of those people who are drawing welfare and so on.

The fallacy that is spread that \$13,000 or \$14,000 a year is being spent on each inmate is strictly that - a fallacy.

The budget for the penitentiary service each year is divided by the amount of prisoners and that is where the figure of \$13,000 is

arrived at. The budget includes staff salaries, all administrative costs, maintenance costs, etc. but the amount that is actually spent on the prisoner himself is a very small portion of the \$13,000.

All the arguments, pro and con, the ifs, whys and why-nots have been talked about and written about on the subject of capital punishment and it has a great attraction for people who quote the bible to back their convictions, specially the retentionists.

A final word to them. There is only one person mentioned in the bible that was told that he would surely go to heaven. He was a thief named Dismas.

If capital punishment is a deterrent then christianity would never have survived. A long, long time ago, a carpenter was sentenced to the death penalty because what he did was considered a crime in those days. As everyone knows, the carpenters name was Jesus Christ!

His death was no more of a deterrent then, than the death penalty is a deterrent is today.

"the view" cont.

JUSTICE - CANADIAN STYLE

Jeffrey Cohen, millionaire heir and vice-president of Army and Navy Department Stores has proven once and for all that there is one law for the rich and powerful and another law for the poor.

Cohen was arrested in Vancouver and charged with the possession of 29 capsules of heroin and one gram of cocaine. He received two years probation for the heroin charge and a \$500. fine on the cocaine charge.

Cohen was not charged with intent to traffic despite the fact that he was in possession of 29 capsules of heroin. In most cases of this nature, possession of this amount of heroin would automatically result in a charge of possession for the purposes of trafficking.

This charge was withdrawn because Cohen's lawyer said that Cohen was rich and therefore had no reason to sell drugs.

Another deviation was the \$500. fine for the one gram of cocaine. It is common

practice for a judge to levy a fine for possession of a soft drug like marijuana but cocaine is a narcotic and possession usually carries a mandatory prison sentence. That is the justice a rich man received.

In Calgary, a 17-year old boy, who was part of the street scene, was approached by an undercover narcotics agent and asked to get a cap of heroin for the agent because "he was sick". The agent also pleaded that his wife needed a "fix" and was in a bad way.

The youngster went and got a capsule of heroin for the undercover "narc" and was arrested and charged with "trafficking in narcotics".

Unfortunately, this youngster was not wealthy and could not afford a high priced lawyer.

Shortly after his eighteenth birthday, this boy appeared before a judge and was convicted. For one capsule of heroin, he was sentenced to seven years in penitentiary.

SPEECH MADE PUBLICLY BY GOVERNOR RAFAEL ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ OF THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS IN MARCH 1971 AFTER GUARDS HAD
WALKED OUT ON AN ILLEGAL STRIKE

"I feel it is my duty to explain what is involved in the continuing crisis in our States Correctional System.

First, the present emergency. What I've done and why. As I speak, Walpole prison is secured by the Massachusetts State Police under the directions of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections. The State Police are there because I sent them. I sent them because the Walpole prison guards are illegally on strike. The guards are on strike because I refused to turn over the control of Walpole prison to the guard's union. The Correction Department and not the employees of the Correction Department run that prison. The guards doubted I would take that critical step of sending uniformed and armed State Troopers into a troubled prison. They were mistaken. The State Police are on the scene because the security of the prison and the safety of the public is priority number one.

I warned the guards that I would not give in to their threats anymore than I gave in to earlier threats from the small number of Walpole inmates who prefer trouble to good order. I have not and I will not!

I've authorized the Department of Corrections to ask the Attorney-General to seek a court order, blocking other guards who have chosen to join those who have went on strike.

Tonight, the prison is quiet. The situation is stable and that is where the present emergency stands. The present emergency is only the latest emergency and you must be prepared. It is certainly not the last emergency. We are witnessing only a sign, only a symbol, and you have the right to ask and to know what is going on. What is really involved in all thisk turmoil? What is really at stake in this continuing struggle?

It's this: A new way of

dealing with men and women who break the law. Here, and around the world, we have learned our lesson. Our history has been simple. Lock people up and throw away the key. Forget the problem. Here, and across America, for as I speak to you tonight, a score of states in this nation confront the same problems as we do. We know that the old way doesn't work, hasn't worked for years and won't work in the years ahead. And of course, in our hearts, we know the old way shouldn't work, for we are dealing not with animals born to be caged, but human beings born to be better, born to be as good as their gifts and their society permit them to be. Two sides clamour apparently. One says we are going too far, let's turn back the clock, let's build higher walls. Another says we haven't gone far enough, the guards are the villains, not the inmates.

Now, forging a policy between these extremes is very difficult. That is why our efforts are painfully slow to produce results, why our results sometimes seem to satisfy no one. It's not easy.

To the inmates tonight, I

must say this. If you allow the minority among you to have their own way, you stand to lose all the rights and privileges that help you. We wish you to have those rights. The goals of prison reform, half-way houses, furloughs, etc., all of these will be swept aside in a violent, vindictive return to the old ways of punishment first and rehabilitation, never.

Rights bring responsibilities; reckless irresponsible children invite harsh discipline. Reasonable, intelligent adults accept responsibility, the choice of which to be is before all of you who hear me tonight behind the wall of that prison. There is this added fact. You, who have failed in the past; you, who have been imprisoned because you have broken the laws of society, bear an extra burden. You must prove, not only that you deserve respect, but that you deserve to return to the society that you have scorned in the past. Yours is no easy task either.

To the guards tonight, I must say this. You prefer to be called Correctional Officers rather than guards. It's not enough that you

place that label on yourselves. As you well understand, you must practice what that label preaches. Some of your ranks cherish the old ways. The lock, the key, the threat, even the violence itself. That is punishment and not correction. That is the past and not the present and..... in no possible way the future. I know the dangers of your work. You are asked to do what most of us would refuse to do; deal with men and women, many of whom have abandoned hope, who have known nothing but despair, who would rather destroy than repair, who would rather wreck than build. Furthermore, you are buffeted by the winds of changes, with new approaches to old problems, of new ways of doing things you have always done in familiar ways. Nothing is quite as frightening as the new and untried. But you, above all, know the old ways have failed, and that, indeed, you have become the victims of those old ways as much as the prisoners with whom you work. Those ways have got to change. I am sworn to protect the public safety as much as you are. I met that responsibility today. If you are among those who went out on strike, you did not! You must!

Now to the people of Massachusetts. Tonight, I say this. I have set this commonwealth on the course of prison reform. That is the course I shall follow while I serve as your governor. Two elements are critical to that choice. 1. Security and 2. Rehabilitation. You cannot have one without the other, and tonight, as you know, we have turbulence, difficulty and great turmoil. But we are, I hope, at the beginning of the end of all that. We have made more progress and we've won important victories. In point of fact, Walpole may be that last stronghold of that old way. We are achieving discipline, rehabilitation, security and reform in all the other institutions in this state. Walpole has been our toughest barrier and that's where it needs the most sustained effort; the most delicate handling. Corrections to mean what it says, must be more than just punishment, more than just locking men away. It must be punishment, yes, for that is only justice. But the punishment must be understood for what it is, - depriving a human being of his freedom. Corrections must be something more; something more than what we see so often today. A system where a student (7) criminal becomes a graduate

criminal, where first offenders become professional perpetual offenders. And even more than that, Corrections must become a means of helping human beings to make use of that freedom they will regain. Helping those who lived outside the laws, to learn to live inside the laws. That is the goal, that's where Massachussetts is going --- where it must go. It will take days, weeks, and months to get there, especially at Walpole prison.

You will hear that this Commission, or that Superintendent, or that Cabinet Officer, or perhaps, most of all, this Governor, is the cause of all the problems. Personalities are not the issues; people are not the problem. The problem is a SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT WORK. A system that is antiquated and useless. It's a problem that you must solve.

Walpole is a maximum, almost super-maximum prison. It is not a place for boisterous boys. It takes locks, keys, guards, rules and regulations; a level of security that is next to none. But neither is it a concentration camp where the name of the game is constant suffering and violence; a place filled with human misery. Normally guards provide secur-

ity. Tonight there was no normality at Walpole. The State Police are there. If the guards do not relent, the State Police will take over totally. There will be no winners, no losers, just one more problem before we can get on with the business of correcting our Correction System. We'll solve that problem as we must. We'll correct that system because we must. We can do it together; guards, inmates, all concerned, or we can do it the hard way, at odds with each other, fighting futile public battles, go on making headlines, stirring up publicity. Each of those inmates must make his own decision. I've made mine and I'll stand by it".

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A former highwayman (Sir John Popham) served as Chief Justice of England from 1592 to 1607.

(Liberty)

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To establish a perfect system of reformation in our penitentiaries, we must begin by reforming the reformers.

(W. Shortt)

HOW ISOLATION CAN TURN PRISONERS INTO "ANIMALS".

Reprint from the Toronto Star.

"Animals".

The word was used time and time again this week to describe the three convicts who took hostages in a vain bid to break out of the British Columbia penitentiary.

Conservative MP John Reynolds, who represents a suburban Vancouver riding, called the trio "animals" three times in press interviews and said, "Half the people in the B.C. pen could just about be classified as animals".

A former 10-year inmate of the B.C. pen, James Carleton, 61, who is writing a book about prison, says, "If you produce an animal, he's going to bite you. And those young men doing life, mostly in solitary, are being turned into animals".

Lawyer Donald Sorochan, who acted as a negotiator during the uprising, says, "After months in solitary, their attitude is, 'You've put us in cages and treated

us like animals - we've got nothing to lose."

All three of the convicts were serving life sentences for violent crimes, including murder, and they had spent months in the "hole", as isolation or solitary confinement is called. Sorochan said his client, Andrew Bruce, had been in segregation for "several years."

In the past year, experts in both the fields of corrections and psychiatry have said that long periods of segregation lead inevitably to emotional imbalance and violence.

Testifying at an inquest into the suicide death of Millhaven inmate Edward Nalon in May, psychiatrist Michael Heaton who had been at the prison at the time of Nalon's death, said, "most people would crack under the pressure of total isolation."

Sorochan says that the inmates' desperate action was at least partially caused

by continual use of solitary confinement at B.C. penitentiary. His voice trembles as he recalls his 37-hour ordeal, as mediator in the 41 hour prison drama which left one classification officer dead.

"Their attitude was one of total despair with the system. That's what made them so dangerous. They felt that death was the only way out."

Sorochan had tried in vain to reason with his client, Bruce, who was holding a knife to the throat of hostage, Mary Steinhouse.

Bruce, 26, had been involved in crime since he was a juvenile, and is now serving a life sentence for the murder of a go-go dancer while her seven-year old daughter watched.

Sorochan was retained as counsel 1½ years ago by Bruce and seven other inmates who brought action against prison director, Dragon Cernetic in the federal courts. They charge that lengthy confinement in isolation without notice of charges and without a hearing subjected them to "cruel and unusual treatment" contrary to the Canadian Bill of Rights.

The case is scheduled to be heard July 7, after a five-month delay while the eight plaintiffs made an unsuccessful appeal to be permitted to be present at the entire proceedings.

Some of the detailed charges being brought to court are:

(1) Unwarranted use of tear gas in solitary confinement cells where it is impossible for prisoners to escape the "cruel and torturous effects."

(2) Confinement in a cell 10 ft. by 5 ft. with a five inch square window 23 hours a day without daily exercise outdoors - contrary to penitentiary regulations.

(3) Failure to provide essential medical and dental care or adequate toilet articles essential to personal health and hygiene.

(4) A light bulb burning in each cell 24 hours a day, "where the lighting of the cell is of such a nature as to be damaging to the plaintiffs' eyesight."

(5) Inadequate ventilation and heat.

(6) Confinement to a cell where no proper bed is provided.

(10) vided.

(7) Confinement to an area with inmates who are suffering from mental disease and who are not being provided with psychiatric treatment for their condition.

The Edward Nalon inquest at Napanee led the jury to make several recommendations regarding the use of segregation, since Nalon, had written his lawyer six days before his suicide saying that he was being forced to serve his life term in solitary.

Paul Copeland, a Toronto lawyer who was involved with the inquest, says that none of the jury's suggestions have been adopted yet

at Millhaven.

Maybe the words of a Millhaven inmate, Chico Santana, best express the desperate conflict:

"We may be prisoners, but we are human beings first. Treat us as humans and three-quarters of the trouble will be eliminated."

"All I can do is tell you, the public, what is happening to us. It's up to you to see that we are treated fairly, because eventually we are released. And if we have been treated like animals then we are naturally going to be looking for someone to take it out on and 'You' may be our victim."

The magistrate has the power to administer time, but he is powerless to stop it from passing.

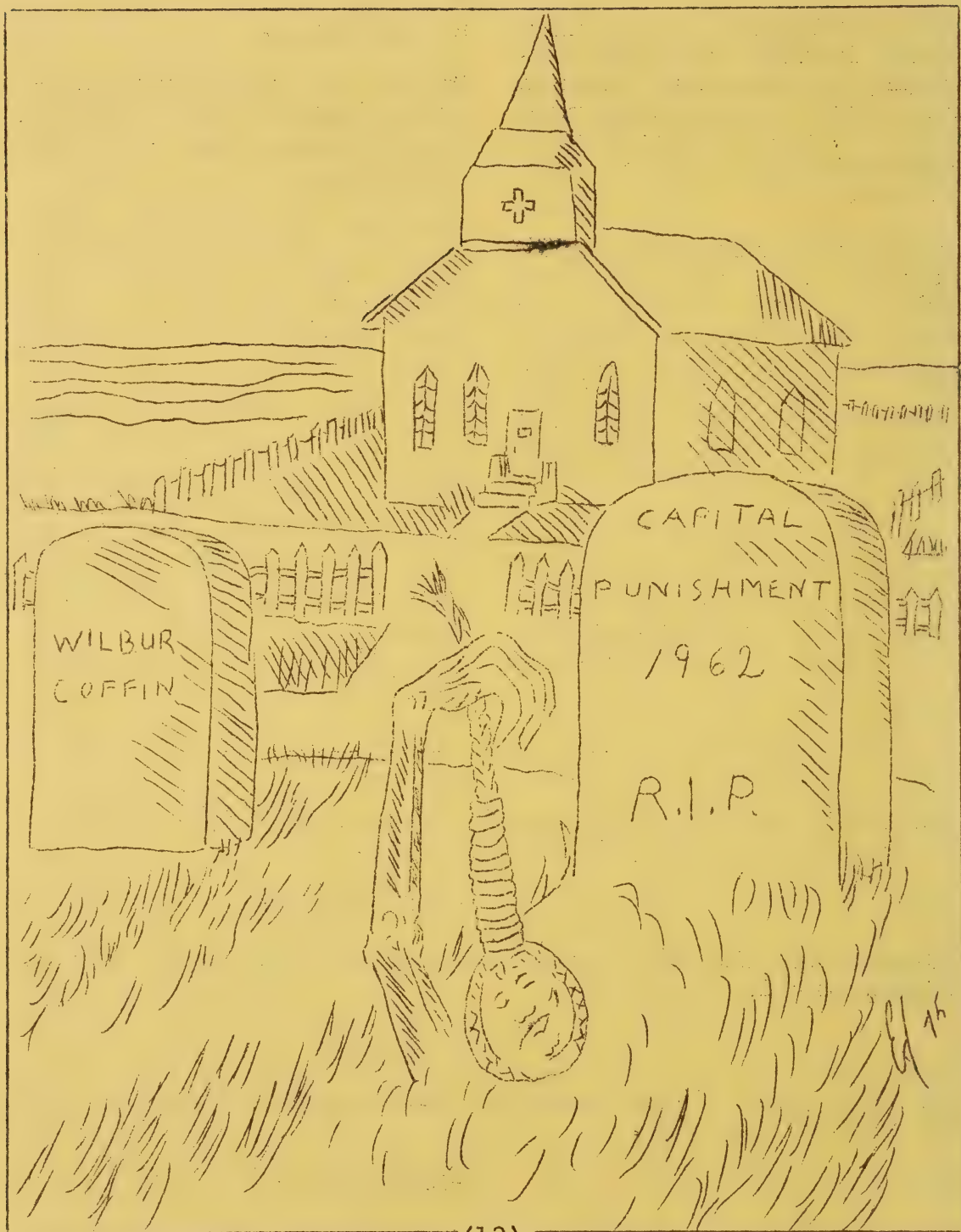
- Anonymous -

Blessed are they who expect nothing for they shall not be disappointed.

- Sandburg -

The best place in the world to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

-Anonymous -



The John Howard society is presently in the process of developing a 'Women's Group' among the wives and girlfriends of inmates living in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

BULLETIN BOARD

The focus of this program will centre on the 'self-help' concept, according to the Society's letter to the AVATAR, and will encourage the women to share their experiences and/or problems they may be having as a result of their partners' imprisonment.

Also the group hopes to provide an opportunity for the women to meet on a collective basis, and they are hoping to arrange regular transportation service to the various prisons in Ont.

Further information regarding the 'Women's Group' is available from Marlene Magill, at 236-9793 (Ottawa).

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SPRINGBOARD

There's a lot of new faces in here recently, and some of you guys might appreciate knowing about SPRINGBOARD'S

transportation service from the Toronto area to Collins Bay. They come here twice a week in a comfortable eleven passenger van and the charge is only \$5.00 IF AND IF the party can afford to pay. So, your wife or girlfriend, or whomever, has good solid transportation if you need it.

Springboard can be contacted in Toronto at 961-9726. or for more information in here, see Ray Leroux, residing in 4-B-25.

Probably because of the high turnover of people in here, not enough of the population use the service. Apparently if it doesn't pick up, one of our days is going to be offered to another pen in the area. So if you're looking for a ride, look no further!

.....

"Hey you! Get off this property.
This is a private estate!"

"Who owns it?"

"I do."

"Where did you get it from?"

"From my father."

"How did he get it?"

"From my grandfather."

"And him, how did he get it?"

"He fought the indians for it."

"Fine. Now, I'll fight you for it!"

JOKE PAGE

The three most dangerous people in the world: A Jew with money: A Greek with tennis shoes: And a Newfie with brains.

How about the Newfie who studied five days TO TAKE AN URINE TEST.

In a recent Newfie Beauty Contest nobody won.

A Newfie was asked in a political discussion: What would you do with Red China? He said it would look best on a purple table cloth.

How about the Newfie who lost his job as an elevator operator because HE COULDN'T LEARN THE ROUTE.

It takes five Newfies to make popcorn. One to hold the kettle and four to shake the stove.

Newfies make the best astronauts. They took up space in school.

The grocer said eggs were .60 a dozen and cracked ones were .30 a dozen. The Newfie said: Crack me a dozen.

What is a hula hoop? It is a teething ring for a big mouthed Newfie.

Newfie mothers are strong and broad-shouldered from raising - dumbbells.

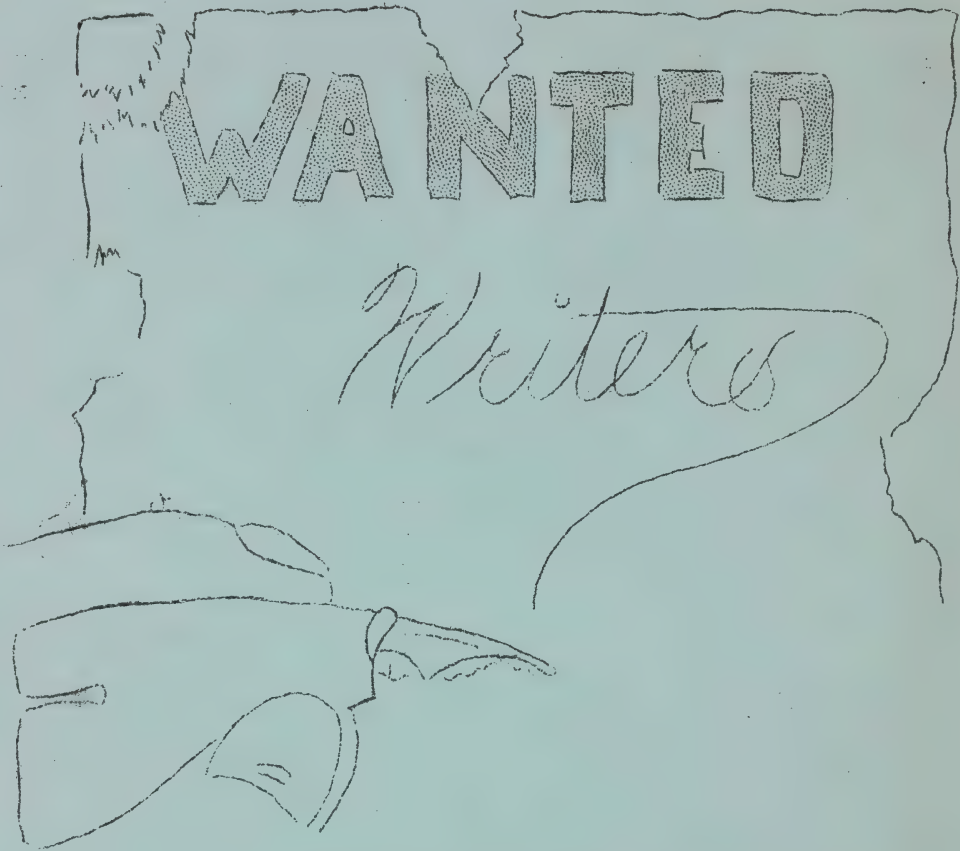
When a man was invited to a party, he said he had a case of diarrhea. He was told to bring it along because a Newfie will drink anything.

The Newfie invented the wheelbarrow so that he could learn to walk on his hind legs.

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A near-sighted bank robber held up a bank: "On the double now, everybody get your hands up ... Are they up?"

Overheard on the subway:
"When I got the bill for my operation, I found out why they wear masks in the operating room."



FOR: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, News
& Views, so on ad infinitum.

REWARD: Satisfaction of knowing you are
saving us work!!!

THE VICTIMS

by george watson

The Ontario Legislature recently passed legislation that repeals Section 8 of the Training Schools Act -- the so-called incorrigible children's section which permitted Juvenile Court judges to sentence children to training schools even though they hadn't been charged with any criminal offense.

In 1974, 250 children were sent to training schools under this section, which was 20% fewer than in 1973.

Training Schools have been proven to be the breeding grounds for penitentiaries.

The majority of prisoners in penitentiaries have started their criminal careers via the training school route.

By now, everyone is aware that "rehabilitation" is just a fancy sounding word used to describe prison policy. Convicts are called inmates but they are still the same as they were years ago; prison guards are now called correctional offi-

cers but they are still the same as they ever were and punishment is called rehabilitation but it hasn't changed either. Even if there was an honest attempt to try and rehabilitate convicts, it would be an near impossible task. How can you change a person in their twenties when they have been "trained" since their early childhood?

A person who has spent their early years, until maturity, learning to become a doctor will not be changed into becoming a plumber. Likewise, a person who has spent their formative years in a prison setting will not change easily either.

A friend of mine once described the system perfectly: "We have a Children's Aid that doesn't aid; Training Schools that don't train; Reform Schools that don't reform; and a penitentiary service where there isn't any penitence."

It would be unfair to totally condemn the Children's

Aid Society. They do place some children in foster homes where the children are treated well, but unfortunately there are many cases where the foster parents get a child solely for the purpose of free labour and for the money they are given for looking after the child. Some of these children repeatedly run away from this environment and end up being sent to training schools.

In other cases, broken marriages result in the child being sent to training school.

Children, innocent of any crimes, except trying to get away from an unhappy situation are branded unmanageable or "incorrigible". Some of them are as young as eight years old!

It is impossible to serve a sentence in a penitentiary without hearing tales about training schools. These tales are not told with an eye to gaining sympathy but are in the form of a reminiscence.

The religious training schools run by "brothers" are the ones most condemned by prisoners.

Brutality by

staff is rampant. In many cases homosexual acts are practiced by the "brothers" on the young children. As one penitentiary inmate told me recently, "I am glad that I was ugly because they never bothered me."

The non-religious training schools are not much different. They too, are brutal and employ some sexual deviates who practice their "skills" on the young prisoners.

Whether it is a penitentiary, reform school, or training school, when the staff is brutal, the prisoners form closer relationships with each other. Many of these children find a friend for the first time in their lives among their fellow prisoners.

After spending many years (until they are 16) they are turned out into society with a hate for the society that locked them up for their childhood years and who robbed them of any chance of the small things in life that other children enjoyed.

The next step is committing a crime and being sent to reform school. After all, they're "incorrigible" at

8 or 9 or 12 years of age and the judge "must do his duty."

The treatment received in the reform school is a repeat performance of the training school but now the child is bigger, (16 or 17) and can fight back, but they become losers again. Millbrook may be changed now but at one time it was one of the most notorious brutal jails in Canada. A fine place to send a 16-year old.

Depending on the sentence, some 16 and 17 year olds are sent directly to the penitentiary and all a person has to do is read their newspapers to find out what kind of places some of Canada's penitentiaries are.

There is one way and one way only, that will cut down on the prison populations and that is to change the way the very young are treated when placed in an institution for the first time.

A staff composed of political appointees and local farmers will ensure a prison system that will continue to be filled but if young people, both men and women who really want to help and who have a genuine(19)

feeling for children, are employed, the prison "business" would suffer a severe setback.

Love is a word that is not spoken of too much in a penitentiary but if the majority of penitentiary convicts had received some of it when they were young children, they mightn't be where they are today.

The prison system is like a reptile. There isn't any use cutting off the tail and leaving the head, and the head is the training school.

Without changes there, there won't be changes anywhere.

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Society consciously casts its youthful offenders into institutions glibly called training schools ... "training" schools that offer indifference and an elementary education in crime.

H.J. Letts

LEGAL CORNER

john david prince

Of grave concern to all of us is the indictment on a murder charge, either of a non-capital or a capital nature. No one in their 'right' mind wants to face the cold facts of killing anyone; no individual or State. This is a reprehensive act, and yet people do continue to murder each other. The why is explained by social scientists in their numerous articles and books.

A few years ago, the charge of murder was rewritten in the Canadian Criminal Code. The offense was broken into two parts; non-capital murder, and capital murder offence except that of a police officer or prison guard while on duty, the latter only included the policeman or prison guard. The punishment for being convicted of capital murder was the death penalty. At the time this law was changed, so was the length of time prisoners had to serve before they were eligible for parole hearings. The term was ex-

tended. In fact, in Bill C-2, we note where the offender could serve TWENTY years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

At present, most reports by the press state that the retention of the death penalty is demanded by the majority of the public. Editorials, for the most part, are asking that we take the life of another person. This idea is unpalatable to the Prime Minister and the Solicitor General. In fact, the newspapers point out, that the Royal prerogative of mercy has been granted in every case that has appeared before the Cabinet. The press maligns the office of the Prime Minister by suggesting that when the Bill on Capital punishment was introduced, there was the loop-hole of mercy which would allow the Prime Minister and his Solicitor General to stop capital punishment, sine the Bill to abolish capital punishment did not get through readings demanded by parlia-

mentary procedure.

From a purely legal and technical point of view, murder is one of the most challenging offences that a lawyer can be called upon to defend, i.e. because of the procedure. One or two points illustrating are: that when a jury is called upon to hear evidence in a murder trial where a guilty verdict makes the death sentence mandatory, the possibility of the accused being innocent, may more often than not, make them hesitant to convict. Also, the best lawyers in the profession are usually attracted to the defence of the accused, and they give the best they have for the stakes are very high.

I would like to draw attention to some well publicized facts, but which appear to be ignored when speaking on the topic of murder and capital punishment.

One in every five murder victims is a woman, killed by her spouse or lover.

Twenty-five percent of the murders and victims are closely related to each other. Almost one-third of the victims are related to the murderer!

Murders are rarely planned and mostly result from emotional flare-ups. Few killers actually consider beforehand what they are doing and what might happen to them after they commit murder.

Following these statistics to a conclusion, it would be safe to suggest that the odds of you being murdered are one in 100,000 but if you are the victim, or the offender, the odds are that you will be murdered by a relative, or that you will kill a friend. You will not be in great danger from strangers or criminals. In fact, less than ten percent of murders are committed while in the course of another crime.

Murders are committed by husbands and wives, by friends who brawl in taverns, by fathers or mothers who kill their children. The publicity given to the Richard Specks and Charles Mansons is not the correct view of the topic of murders. These people are the exceptions. The "norm" is nice people killing their relatives, not some "animal" running through the streets killing people for something to pass the time of day with. (see pg. 33)

DON'T FEED THEM



ANIMALS

by
Don
Geauvreau

The Kingston Whig Standard of June 23, 1975 printed an article by Mr. Cliff Bowering entitled, "We have two Choices".

In this article, Mr. Bowering takes the Law Reform Commission to task for a recommendation they made that the maximum penalty for any offence should be "only" twenty years. In the same article Mr. Bowering also refers to people who commit violent crimes as "animals".

Mr. Bowering's main complaint about the twenty year recommendation seems to be that a man serving a twenty year sentence could conceivably be released --- via parole - after serving seven years, a term which is apparently not long enough to satisfy society's need for vengeance.

First of all, everybody does NOT make a parole. It is by no means a "sure thing".

Secondly, if Mr. Bowering had taken a little time to do some simple research before writing the aforementioned article he would have discovered that violent offenders are the best "parole risks". It is a statistically proven fact that violent offenders as a group have the lowest rate of recidivism.

In spite of these facts, I have no objection to Mr. Bowering expressing his disagreement with the L.R. C's recommendation. He has the right to speak his mind and voice his opinions, whatever they may be.

However, I do take exception to his use of the word "ani-

mals" in reference to violent offenders. In my opinion, this is deliberately inflammatory, and a prime example of irresponsible journalism at its worst.

The next time Mr. Bowering approaches the inmates of one of the local institutions to support one of his pet community projects, we would do well to remember

that this is the same man who thinks that some of us are animals.

Although it may seem presumptuous for an untrained, amateur writer to criticize the writing of an experienced reporter, if the article of June 23rd is any indications of Mr. Bowering's talent, I'll take my chances.

+++++

Inmate Has Story Published

Chuck Armstrong, 39, an inmate here in Collins Bay Penitentiary has had a short story that he has written published in Elite Magazine's July issue.

The title of the story is "The Gallows" and in Chuck's own words, "It concerns someone facing the death penalty which, at the moment, is a highly emotional and controversial subject. It is not a true story but is based on fact, except for the ending. The prison represents Bordeaux Jail in Montreal and the gallows are as described.

"The Gallows" was published originally in the March issue of the AVATAR under the title, "The Last Indignity".

Chuck has been commissioned to write another article for a future issue of Elite Magazine. The article will deal with some of Chuck's escapades and how most of them went wrong.

Elite Magazine is published in Montreal and is Canada's equivalent to Playboy in the U.S.A.

We extend our congratulations to Chuck and wish him continued success

INMATES PRODUCE THREE RADIO SHOWS

Recently, the CBC Radio's show, "This Country in the Morning" carried two 15-minute programs put together by two Collins Bay Penitentiary inmates.

The three topics deal with institutionalization and the desensitizing effect of prison on inmates, the cycles one inmate has experienced during his prison term, and how inmates use long stretches of time in prison.

Inmate Donald Geauvreau 39, a native of Windsor, did 25 hours of interviews, while producer Robert Hay 27, of Toronto edited the material for two months.

All the work was done in Hay's cell which he described as so full of electronic gear that the normal background prison sounds were muffled.

The two inmates also did two shows which were broadcast previously - one dealing with inmates feelings on arriving at the regional reception centre at Kingston Penitentiary and meth-

ods of surviving emotionally in prison.

Hays said, he hopes the prison series will provide the public with insight into prison life.

The public is exposed to the sensational events, such as the B.C. Penitentiary's incident 2 weeks ago, and the hot argument on capital punishment. But with understanding, Hays said, change will come to the prison system from the outside ...which is where he believes it must originate.

The program evolved from music and radio workshops put on this spring by CBC radio employees for the inmates. They included teaching of techniques for interviewing, recording and editing.

Jane Forner, music producer for CBC radio in Ottawa said the courses ran for 10 weeks and were done on a voluntary basis by the CBC staffers.

ASSASSIN

for the STATE

by
terry
forsythe

Tis said that he who liveth by the sword
Shall by the sword die, and if't be true,
What then of him who with his lethal cord,
Makes fast the knot that black death must undo?

From the moment you sentence him to die, he is, to all practical purposes a dead thing; a corpse wanting only to be interred.

What then of him who hides his very name,
That none should know who springs the door of death;
That none should see the secret, horrid shame
Of one who strangles out his brother's breath?

He is known only as "Mr. Ellis" ... the name serving as a shroud to mask his true identity. And this is only as it should be, of course, for it hardly would do for his friends, his neighbours ... his family to be aware of the blood on his hands. They might, at best feel uncomfortable in his presence ... at worst they might be moved to ostracize him from the society

of man. Yes, it is easily understood why "MR. Ellis" should take pains to conceal his true identity.

But while true anonymity is really an understandable necessity for one of his profession, that profession is nonetheless ignoble, morbid and sinister. A killer for the State hiding behind a facade of respectability is to some degree cowardly, and suggests that "Mr. Ellis is not entirely persuaded that how he earns his money is altogether right or morally justifiable.

No, "Mr. Ellis" is a man not proud of his work; not a man given to boasting of his skills with rope and gallows tree ... despite the fact of his being your "hit-man" so to speak; despite the fact of your giv-

ing him his periodical contacts as it were. But then, all "hit-men" are traditionally very, very secretive about their work; theirs is always a clandestine operation.

But though not proud of his work, is he a man that is happy in his work, this "hit man" for the State ... your man? I wonder.... I think, that perhaps there exist such rare (?) unique types among us possessed of such perverse (weird, if you will) temperaments which enables them to derive some distorted, sick pleasure from doing your murders for you.

Oscar Wilde once said:

"'Tis sweet to dance to violins
When love and life are fair;
To dance to lutes to dance to flutes
is delicate and rare.
But it is not sweet with nimble feet
To dance upon the air.

No, indeed ... not "sweet" at all. But then, they don't always dance, you know. Some times things go awry and your assassin's calculations are a little off. Like when a rather overweight woman was hanged out in western Canada a number of years ago. Her name escapes me at the moment, (it is rarely mentioned by retentionists) but

what happened, briefly, was that your "Mr. Ellis" erred in the estimation of the woman's weight, also so she wasn't hanged at all ... she was decapitated.

You see, your killer must needs be a true professional, just as Capone's were.. just as Albert Anastasia's were. They must know their job thoroughly. A slight miscalculation as to the victim's weight, or the length of rope, and the head is torn away from the rest of the body! Very messy as you must understand; very gory, bothersome to the witnesses, also blood spraying about and the stains a devil to get rid of.

On the other hand it can be a miscalculation the other way, which is to say that your assassin might over-

estimate his victim's weight in which case the victim strangles and observers must attend to his gurgling, gasping sounds as he fights for the breath that will not come...

One rarely, if indeed ever, hears tell of these miscalculations on the part

of your killer, ... and whether the head be ripped off from the rest of the body, or the victim strangles, taking minutes to die, you are spared the details and are simply told that "the sentence has been carried out" and that the victim was pronounced dead at such and such a time. All very "neat", very "clean", very precise ... and very, very final.

"He does not sit with silent men,
Who watch him night and day;
Who watch him when he tries to weep,
And when he kneels to pray;
Who watch him lest himself should rob,
The gallows of its prey."

That's Oscar Wilde again, and I think that this period of waiting and being "watched by silent men" is perhaps more terrible than the actual hanging. Waiting, waiting...knowing that on a certain date, not too far off...and on a certain hour he will cease to be...this I feel is the real punishment...the real torture.

And if it is...then herein lies the real deterrent, and so the people... you, should be able to view this man's suffering; you the supporters of capital punishment...you, the retentionists, should be afforded "visiting privileges" and

be allowed to bring your sons and daughters to view this man's torture, to speak with him of his crime and of how he feels now that he is about to die. This would, according to those who believe in the deterrent effect, be the most reasonable thing to do. For that matter, why should there be but one "Mr Ellis"? Why not everyman? The hangman might be chosen from

among your
midst, just as
jurors are
chosen. It
would be all
very secret of
course just as
it is today...
but everyone

would have a chance to impose the sentence that they insist be imposed... a life for a life.

Yes, I really think that all of you should be given "A shot at it", this hanging business...

They might even make it public, these executions that so many of you clamour to have done. Posters could be set up or carried about; posters reading; "Come see what happens to murderers", "See the man hanged... just as Wilbur Coffin was hanged". No, that would never do, not that name... for Wilbur

Coffin was innocent, wasn't he? ... very unfortunate thing that...

Yes, I think they should be public these hangings ... and after awhile when every one becomes used to them, insensitive to them, they might very well become something of a special event, family entertainment (with a purpose of course). Refreshments might be ser-

ved; souvenirs hawked...a piece of the rope; a lock of the victim's hair...

Incidentally, and though I hate to end on a sour note, I happened to read the other day an article mentioning the fact that your last "hit-man", your Mr. Ellis", died all alone in his Montreal apartment;... he had starved to death ... odd.

the VISITORS

fiction

by George Watson

The spaceship from the moon circled the large, well-lighted field and slowly landed. The door slid open, a ladder was lowered, and two spacemen descended to the ground. Looking around, they noticed that the field which they were in was surrounded by a double wire fence. The spaceship had landed right in the middle of the sports field of Grindport Maximum Security Prison in the country of Kanata.

The dogs barking woke the guard in the tower and he quickly notified other members of the staff that

there was a strange object in the yard. Guards armed with shotguns, nightsticks and riot helmets ran into the yard and encircled the two astronauts and the spaceship.

"Let's shoot them!" said one guard.

"No," said the one in charge, not in the mood for fun and games, "we had better find out who they are first."

The astronauts, both of whom spoke 11 languages, upon hearing the guards speaking English, said, "We

are from the Moon and are on a friendly mission."

"I think we had better call the Director," said the second guard.

"Well, hurry up. I was in the middle of a card game and I am down fifty cents and my wife will be as mad as hell if I lose all that money," complained the first guard.

The Director was busy at home watching movies that had been taken by the hold-up squads in Hogstown and By-By-Town on the interrogation of hold-up suspects. He was in such a state of ecstasy that he was having a hard time threading the second reel on his projector. The first reel had finished right in the middle of the Hogstown squad using an electrical prod on a suspect.

The Director's fingers trembled as he was threading the reel and he called to his wife to hurry up and bring the beer as he was nearly ready to continue with the film.

The Director's wife was the one person of whom he was scared. Early in their marriage, he had attempted to treat her like he treated the inmates in his prison (29) spaceship of the Moon has

but she put a stop to that fast.

She was a boxing fan and her idol was Muhammad Ali. She had watched the fight between Ali and Sonny Liston when Ali had knocked out Liston with his "mystery punch". She was the only person in the world, besides Howard Cosell, who had seen the punch and every time her husband attacked her, he was hit with the "Ali Special".

She was also a TV nut. She watched all of the shows that featured violence. The last time that the Director attempted to hit her, unfortunately for him, she had just watched Kung Fu. She saw her husband's reflection on the TV and jumped up, yelled a few oriental phrases, kicked him in the groin and fired him through the air like a dart. She then threatened him that if he ever attacked her again, she would destroy his most valued possession, the complete works of the Marquis de Sade. Just as she entered the room, the phone rang.

"The Director of Grindport prison here."

"Sir, this is a member of the staff at the prison. A

landed in the middle of the sports field and I want to know what I should do."

"Haven't I left orders that I am not to be bothered with small details when I am at home?" screamed the director.

"But sir," protested the guard, "there are two astronauts with the spaceship."

"Hold them there and I will call By-By-Town," ordered the director.

The director phoned long-distance and talked to a member of the foreign affairs department. He was ordered to go to the prison and entertain the astronauts until the man from external affairs could get there.

On his arrival at the prison, the director headed for the sports field and met the two astronauts.

"Gentlemen, welcome to Kanata," said the director. "I am sorry that I kept you waiting, but come with me and I will show you my wonderful institution. The policy here used to be one of punishment, but being a civilized country, we have changed and now we rehabilitate the prisoners."

The two astronauts, while being able to converse in 11 languages, did not know what the word "rehabilitate" meant but seeing they were going to be shown, they didn't ask for an explanation.

One of the astronauts, named Luna, asked the director "What are the dogs for?"

"Do not be afraid," laughed the director, "they will not harm you. They are trained only to attack inmates."

"What are the guns for?" asked Luna.

"To shoot the inmates if they try to escape," replied the director.

As they were walking towards the buildings, the director remarked. "The American astronauts who landed on the moon said it was not inhabited and was just rocks and sand."

"That is funny," replied Luna. "Our astronauts have landed five times in the northern part of Kanata and they reported that Kanata was not inhabited but was just ice and snow."

The group entered the building and saw a guard in (30) a gun turret. Looking into

the turret, Luna saw a row of cans and asked the director what they contained.

"Tear gas," replied the director. "We use it on the inmates frequently and it serves them right. We have to rehabilitate them one way or the other."

"What are those leather sticks for?" asked Luna.

"They aren't leather sticks. They are blackjacks."

"What are they used for?"

"Sometimes we use them on inmates' heads" answered the director.

"What are those round metal things?"

"They are handcuffs and shackles. We use them on the inmates too."

"Is this what 'rehabilitate' means?" asked the second astronaut, speaking for the first time.

"Ha, Ha," laughed the director. "You learn fast."

"Where does that corridor lead to?" asked Luna.

"Come with me," replied the director. "This is the segregation wing. We put the

inmates who are difficult to rehabilitate in here".

"Is this a jail inside of a jail?" asked the second astronaut.

"That is a pretty good description," answered the director.

Walking down the corridor, Luna looked into one of the cells. A man, handcuffed and shackled was laying on the floor. "Who is that man?" asked Luna.

"A troublemaker but we will rehabilitate him."

Just then, the man from external affairs arrived and rushed up to shake hands with the astronauts.

"Welcome to KANATA. This is a great pleasure indeed. What brings you to our great democratic country?" asked the recent arrival.

"We have suffered a slight disaster on the moon and we are seeking aid. We didn't know that there were people here but were attracted by the lights."

"Kanata will certainly help you. If you will come to By-By-Town with me, I will introduce you to the proper authorities that will help

to rehabilitate your country. Wait..... where are you going?"

The two astronauts raced out the door, climbed aboard their spaceship and took off for home.

Upon their arrival, the astronauts reported to their government what had happened in Kanata. Two days after their arrival home, the Moon fired nuclear bombs and missiles,

and wiped Kanata off the face of the earth.

In an interview with the American Press, the foreign minister of the moon explained the reasons for his government's action.

"We sent our astronauts on a friendly mission and they happened to land in Kanata and they were threatened. We only acted in self-defense. We rehabilitated Kanata before they had a chance to rehabilitate us."

End of a fairy tale.

+++++

QUOTATIONS

"The moment of truth occurs when a man learns once and for all whether he is the bullfighter or the bull".

- Stimson Bullett -

+++++

"The measure of a man's character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out".

- Thomas Macaulay -

+++++

"There's nothing I'm afraid of like scared people".

- Robert Frost -

(Legal Corner cont'd)

Given that the above statistics are correct, then we ought to direct our attention to the concept of controlling and deterring people from murder. Gun control laws are aimed directly at the good citizen, not the criminal. Deterrence is pointed at the good citizen, i.e. capital punishment is hoped to stop an emotional husband from killing his wife during a heated argument, not some atypical person who might be in the course of a burglary. The idea that some arbitrary law will stop someone from behaving in a specific manner is outdated. The same principles through which a normal person learns to respect the values of society take place in the atypical, or asocial person, but they do not respond to the laws in a typical fashion. For the person who is normal, their rational at the time of the crime superimposes itself over the correct values and the person acts without thinking of the consequences of his act. (This is not to suggest they are insane).

The idea of murder in our society is not enjoyed by us, whether the murder be by relatives, friends, criminals or the State. It removes (33

from us the most precious thing we have; our life. We should at no time advocate the death of any person be they 'gooks', 'niggers', 'wops', 'animals', 'prison guards', or 'inmates'.

For those who quote the Bible so adeptly to support their feelings on capital punishment, Jesus said: "thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself ..." and he who says he loves me but who has not seen me, but does not love his brother who he has seen, lies". Finally, "thou shalt not kill".

There is no law which would allow us to commit a similiar crime to punish a person, for then we are worse than the criminal because we deliberately set out to hurt the person.

Murder is a social problem which is irreversible and final. We cannot bring the person back to life. We should though, glorify the one life that we do have and take a great deal of pleasure out of saving the offender, not killing him on the scaffold.

+++++

The same minister who preaches "Thou shalt not kill", will read prayers to the man led to his execution.

TIME'S TOMB

Numbered and cubicled I lie,

stuck;

As in some sticky stuff a fly is stuck,

Whose errant ways, or idle curiosity,

has done for him;

Regulated
That's the word

As is the clock I've come to hate,

With its molasses movement;

But I have heard, or read of late,

That Time is only relative...

But not irrelevant

Of that you can be sure,

As I am sure who numbered and cubicled lie,

and wait...

Terry Forsythe

CONTEMPORARY BEADLEDOM

Piles and piles of filed away people

Lost in the inefficiency of the bureaucratic
shuffle

Incompetent politicians working on incompetent
systems

Twisted and tormented flesh

Trapped in the mortal maze of red-tape
red-tape
red-tape

People!!!

Beware of the Paper-Tombstone!!

jacques e. michaud

1974

Justice is exactly what it is ... just-ice!

LOVE'S WISHES

When I awaken on a summer morn,
And I see the sun-filled skies,
I am reminded of your happy smile
And the bright light of love in your eyes.
I write these words of how I feel,
And even though we're apart,
The strong wings of my love,
Will carry them straight to your heart.
I feel your love, warm and strong,
I've touched your heart with my mind.
Oh, how I wish that we could have
The days we've left behind.
But, we both know, deep down inside
That love's not made of wishes.
Love is made of real things
Unmade beds, kids to feed, and dirty dishes
Wishes will sustain us in our need,
While we must be apart.
But the strength of our love,
Will bind us together, head to head,
Body to body, and Heart to heart.

Disconcerting Thought

Amerika

Seems to suit the "K",

And

At the rate we're going,

Before we know it ...

So will XCanada ...

+++++

TRAGI-COMEDY

I vowed that I would keep my heart

in Artic isolation

And swore henceforth to stand apart

From love's mad fascination.

"Once bit twice shy", would be my rule,

I said it with conviction;

But here I am again love's fool

Pursuing crucifixion.

Not for me the eye that sheds no tear,
And not for me the lips that never smile,
Nor the heart that knows no fear,
Nor the tongue that would defile
these things.

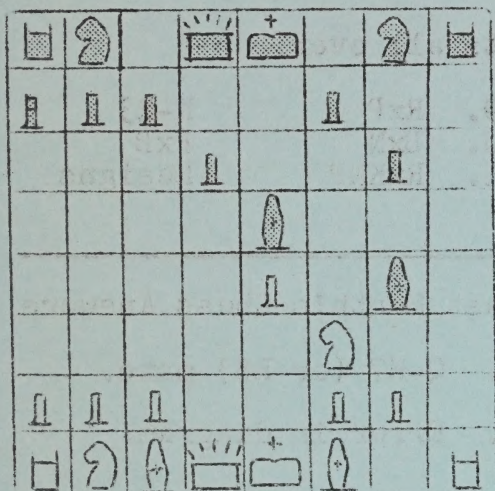
All human traits, if we but contemplate,
Are neither good or ill, they merely
are

And as they are is man, and to berate
Him for himself... is to berate a star
for shining.

Terry Forsythe

CHESS CORNER

Terry Dineen



Position after move 7.

P.Keres
WHITE

L.Kirstein
BLACK

1. P-K4 P-Q3
2. P-Q4 P-KN3
3. P-KR4 B-N2

An unorthodox, and threatening move, which Black chooses to ignore.

4. P-R5! P-K4

White's pawn suddenly becomes annoying.

5. PxKP BxP
6. N-KB3 B-N5

Black's pin seems fine and he hopes to develop.

Paul Keres is an International Grandmaster who recently completed a tour across Canada. He has been one of the leading contenders for the World Championship since the mid-thirties.

The primary purpose of Mr. Keres' visit was to give seminars for Canada's strongest players. But he also gave a number of simultaneous exhibitions, playing up to 30 people at one time.

The following game, a simultaneous, was played in Ottawa. Paul Keres had White against Larry Kirstein's Black.

7. PxP RPxP

And then came the shocker!

8. NxB!! BxQ

The opportunity to capture White's Queen was too good for Black to turn down.

9. RxR K-K2
10. NxBP

Another great move...

- 10 KxN

Black sees, but cannot stop, the coming attack.

11. B-B4 ch K-B3
 Black now considers exchanging
 the Queen off for White's 2
 pieces - but his bishop is
 still in jeopardy on White's
 Queen square.

12. RxN Q-K2
 13. N-B3 P-B3

The knight becomes an immediate
 threat from its first move!

14. B-R6 Q-R2
 15. R-B8 ch K-K4
 16. RxB QxB

White closes off escape for
 Black's king and wins a bish-
 op at the same time!

17. P-B4!!! QxP

Forced.

18. RxQ Kx R

Its all over.

19. RxP N-R3

20. BxN PxB

21. RxKNP Resigns

Last Month's Chess Answers

1. Q-N7 (or R8) mate.

2. Error in diagram.

+++++

We wish to apologize to the inmates and to our subscribers
 for being late with the June issue of the AVATAR. Until
 June 30th, the magazine was being done by one person, Terry
 Dineen, but on the 30th of June, we expanded to two. The Ju-
 ly issue may be a week late also but by the August issue, we
 hope to be able to have the stories written and published
 on time.

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Loke

"In the Solicitor General's
Department it seems
the 'privates' dictate
policy and the
'general' obeys."

